

My name is Elizabeth Quinones. I have worked in the early childhood education field, for over twenty years. I am presently employed at Precious Memories Early Childhood Learning Center in Bridgeport, Connecticut. I was hired as a preschool teacher and got promoted to a director position. Working in the early childhood field is my passion and God-given gift. I strive each day to make a positive difference in the lives of the children in my care, and their families.

What I often ask myself is why is it that the early childhood education field does not receive the recognition it deserves? Why are we considered by many as babysitters? Why are we not getting the pay and benefits we so deserve, when we are the educators who set the foundation for the child's future learning? Why do parents have to struggle to pay tuition? How can I consider retiring in this field that I love, when the pay is not enough to make ends meet?

I did my part by meeting the educational requirements, which includes a CDA credential in Early Childhood Education, A CDC certificate in Early Childhood Education, an Associate degree in Early Childhood Education and a bachelor's degree in Child Studies.

When will the early childhood education field be compensated and acknowledged for the great jobs we do?

